

In re Appln. of Specht et al.  
Application No. 09/514,711

*IN THE CLAIMS*

Please cancel, without prejudice, claims 2, 7, 8, 13, 17, 21-23, and 25-44, amend claims 1 and 24, and add new claims 45 and 46 as indicated below in the listing of claims.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A mop comprising:

an elongate shaft having a mopping end and a gripping end;

a channel body disposed at said mopping end of said shaft and comprising spaced-apart first and second leg portions defining a channel therebetween;

6 a mop element comprising a flexible, compressible, elongate liquid absorbent member, said mop element having a central axis, said mop element being disposed in a relatively hinged relationship with respect to said channel body along a hinge line, said  
8 hinge line being generally perpendicular to said central axis;

an elongate rod having an operator end and operatively connecting said operator end to one of said mop element and said channel body,

whereby the application of longitudinal force in said rod relative to the other of said mop element and said channel body causes relative hinged movement of said mop element and said channel body about said hinge line thereby drawing said mop element into said channel and causing said mop element to fold at said central axis and to become compressed between said channel body portions, and

an operator handle, said operator handle including a gripping portion, a pivotal mounting on said shaft, and a pivotal connection to said operator end of said rod whereby pivotal motion of said gripping portion relative to said shaft creates tension in said rod.

Claim 2 (Canceled).

3. (Original) A mop according to claim 1, said central axis dividing said absorbent member into first and second portions, said mop including a mop element support including a first wing connected to said first portion of said absorbent member and a second wing connected to said second portion of said absorbent member.

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4. (Original) A mop according to claim 3, said mop element support including biasing means urging said first and second wings and mop element portions toward a coplanar relationship.

5. (Original) A mop according to claim 3, said mop element support including a link connecting said first wing to said second wing, said wings being hingedly connected to said link.

6. (Original) A mop according to claim 5, wherein said link has a first arm and a second arm, said first wing being hingedly connected to said link at said first arm and said second wing being hingedly connected to said link at said second arm.

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Claims 7 and 8 (Canceled).

9. (Original) A mop according to claim 1, said channel body having a connecting portion interlinking said first and second leg portions.

10. (Previously Amended) A mop according to claim 9, said rod extending through said connecting portion.

11. (Previously Amended) A mop according to claim 9, said rod extending around said connection portion.

connecting

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12. (Previously Amended) A mop comprising:  
an elongate shaft having a mopping end and an operator end;  
a channel body disposed at the mopping end of said shaft and comprising a first channel body leg and a second channel body leg defining a channel therebetween;  
an elongate mop element support having a first wing, a second wing, and a link therebetween, said link being hingedly secured along its length to said first wing and to said second wing, said link having a hinge axis across its width corresponding to the width of said channel, said support being mounted for rotation about said axis within said channel;  
a flexible, compressible, liquid absorbent mop element overlying said support and having ends secured to first and second wings respectively; and  
a tension-rod generally aligned with said shaft, and pivotally secured to a position on said link displace from said hinge axis,  
whereby the application of tension in said rod relative to said shaft rotates said link about said hinge axis to rotate said wings relative to said legs and relative to said link whereby said wings are closed together to a compressed position between said legs.

Claim 13 (Canceled).

14. (Original) The mop of claim 13 wherein said pivotal connection is disposed between the gripping end and the pivotal mounting.

15. (Original) The mop of claim 12 including bias means urging said wings and said ends apart hingedly.

16. (Original) The mop of claim 15, said bias means comprising a spring.

Claim 17 (Canceled).

18. (Original) The mop of claim 12 including a roller rotatably mounted at the end of each leg and engaging the respective wing whereby rotation of said link causes said wings to roll in an arcuate path relative to said legs about said hinge axis.

19. (Original) The mop of claim 12 wherein said mop element includes a compressible, liquid absorbent outer layer and a flexible tough inner layer adapted to overlie the support, said inner layer being in alignment with said wings and detachably secured thereto.

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20. (Original) The mop of claim 19 wherein each wing has a wing aperture and said inner layer has an aperture aligned with each wing aperture and a fastener disposed in each wing aperture and engaging the respective aperture in said inner layer whereby said inner layer is maintained against said support.

Claims 21-23 (Canceled).

24. (Currently Amended) A mop comprising:

an elongate shaft having a mopping end and an operator end;

a mophead disposed at the mopping end of said shaft and including a body supported at the mopping end and said mophead defining a mop element plane and a central channel extending into said body from said mop element plane toward said operator end, and an elongate, flexible compressible, liquid absorbent mop element having a central transverse section supported on said body along said plane and having ~~end portions~~ ends extending longitudinally outwardly therefrom, one end portion of said central transverse section being hingedly supported in said channel; and

a rod generally aligned with said shaft and pivotally secured adjacent the other end of said central transverse section,

whereby longitudinal force in said rod relative to said shaft rotates said central transverse section about said one portion whereby said ends are closed together within said channel to compressed positions.

Claims 25-44 (Canceled).

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45. (New) A mop comprising:

an elongate shaft having a mopping end and a gripping end;

a channel body disposed at said mopping end of said shaft and comprising spaced-apart first and second leg portions defining a channel therebetween;

6 a mop element comprising a flexible, compressible, elongate liquid absorbent member, said mop element having a central axis, said mop element being disposed in a relatively hinged relationship with respect to said channel body along a hinge line, said hinge line being generally perpendicular to said <sup>longitudinal</sup> ~~central~~ axis, said central axis dividing said absorbent member into first and second portions, said mop including a mop element support including a first wing connected to said first portion of said absorbent member and a second wing connected to said second portion of said absorbent member, said mop element support including a link connecting said first wing to said second wing, said wings being hingedly connected to said link, said link being connected to said channel body at a hinge trunnion, said hinge trunnion defining a hinge axis, said hinge line being defined by said hinge axis;

10 an elongate rod having an operator end and operatively connecting said operator end to one of said mop element and said channel body,

whereby the application of longitudinal force in said rod relative to the other of said mop element and said channel body causes relative hinged movement of said mop element and said channel body about said hinge line thereby drawing said mop element into said channel and causing said mop element to fold at said central axis and to become compressed between said channel body portions.

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46. (New) A mop comprising:

an elongate shaft having a mopping end and a gripping end;

a channel body disposed at said mopping end of said shaft and comprising spaced-apart first and second leg portions defining a channel therebetween;

6 a mop element comprising a flexible, compressible, elongate liquid absorbent member, said mop element having a central axis, said mop element being disposed in a relatively hinged relationship with respect to said channel body along a hinge line, said hinge line being generally perpendicular to said central axis, said central axis dividing said absorbent member into first and second portions, said mop including a mop element support including a first wing connected to said first portion of said absorbent member and a second wing connected to said second portion of said absorbent member;

an elongate rod having an operator end and operatively connecting said operator end to one of said mop element and said channel body,

C/ whereby the application of longitudinal force in said rod relative to the other of said mop element and said channel body causes relative hinged movement of said mop element and said channel body about said hinge line thereby drawing said mop element into said channel and causing said mop element to fold at said central axis and to become compressed between said channel body portions;

wherein said first leg portion includes a first roller rotatably journaled thereon and engaging said first wing, said second leg portion includes a second roller rotatably journaled thereon and engaging said second wing, whereby said relative hinged movement of said mop element and said channel body causes said wings to roll in a generally arcuate path relative to said channel body leg portions.